Holidays – The Satanic Temple – San Antonio Chapter

OUR HOLIDAYS

The Satanic Temple has five Religious Holidays, and four observances.

- **ROE V WADE – JANUARY 22**
- **DEVIL'S NIGHT – JUNE 6**
- **BLASPHEMY DAY – SEPTEMBER 30**
- **YOUR BIRTHDAY – FLOATING OBSERVANCE**

LUPERCALIA - FEBRUARY 15

Based on the Roman festival of the same name, Lupercalia falls on February 15th. In keeping with the ancient tradition, February 13th and 14th are observed as feast days leading up to the actual holiday. What we are translating this to in TST is a "hail yourself" day. This idea offers a parallel to the "others-centered" traditions of Sol Invictus.

Representation: Celebration of bodily autonomy, sexual liberation, and reproduction.

Historical Context: Pre-Roman annual pastoral festival that derives its name from the Roman Lycaean Pan (not to be confused with the Greek fawn-esque Pan, this one has wolf-like traits). Traditionally, the celebration would occur in the Lupercal cave, near the sanctuary to Rumina, the goddess of breastfeeding and the wild fig tree.

The celebration often started with whipping other individuals with strips of sacrificial goat or dog skin. Being whipped was seen as an honor and would "promote" healthy deliveries or help the barren become pregnant.

Suggestions for Celebration:

- A feast that includes a milk-like substance, figs, lamb (or a vegan option), & other foods.
- Rituals with a mock sacrifice, orgies, BDSM, asexual awareness, bodily autonomy, wolves.

HEXENNACHT - APRIL 30

In Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's Faust: a Tragedy (1808), Mephisto and Faust attend the Walpurgisnacht revelry atop Mount Brocken. TST's Hexenacht is a solemn holiday to honor those who were victimized by superstition.

Representation: Occasion honoring those who fell victim to superstition and pseudoscience, whether by witch hunt, Satanic panic, or other injustices.

Historical Context: St. Walpurga established a monastery in Germany. The townspeople would pray to her to

ward off illnesses, such as whooping cough and rabies, as well as warding off witchcraft. Traditionally, it was believed that during Walpurgisnacht, witches would commune with the devil and their evil powers were the strongest. To ward off evil and protect themselves and their livestock, people would traditionally light fires on the hillsides.

Suggestions for Celebration:

- Feast with mead and sparkling wine.
- Grey Mass.
- Destruction Ritual with bonfires, music, and dance.

UNVEILING DAY - JULY 25

A centerpiece of our religious movement and icon of modern Satanism, the Baphomet with Children statue was commissioned by The Satanic Temple in 2014 and created by Mark Porter with “respect for diversity and religious minorities” in mind. We observe this milestone in Satanic history by celebrating Unveiling Day.

Representation: Celebration of religious plurality and shedding archaic superstition.

Historical Context: On July 25, 2015, The Satanic Temple unveiled Baphomet to a large crowd of devotees in Detroit, signaling the beginning of the new Satanic era.

Suggestions for Celebration:

- Unbaptism or Molting ritual

HALLOWEEN - OCTOBER 31

Halloween is consistently described as evil, demonic, and satanic by those steeped in religious dogma. Costumes, candy, and facing fears are to be embraced.

Representation: Holiday to celebrate indulgence, darkness, and being spooky.

Historical Context: A festival marking the beginning of winter in Gaelic Ireland. In Irish mythos, Samhain was the time in which the doors to the other side would be open, and demons, spirits of the dead, etc. could come back to our world and stir-up some nonsense.

Suggestions for Celebration:

- Feast including corn; root vegetables; sheep, geese, chicken, or vegan option; and ale.
- Bonfires, trick-or-treating, masquerade parties, Hell houses, black masses.

SOL INVICTUS - DECEMBER 25

Translated, Sol Invictus means unconquered sun. While this holiday actually takes place on December 25th, December 23rd and 24th are observed as feast days.

Representation: A celebration of being unconquered by superstition and consistent in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge.

Historical Context: The cult of Sol existed within Rome since its early days as a republic, and Invictus was an epithet used for Jupiter, Mars, and Apollo (among others). The festival celebrated these gods and may have also been used to celebrate the winter solstice, though this is debatable.

Suggestions for Celebration:

- Feast with winter foods and drink, particularly wine.
- Candles to represent the light of Lucifer.
- Black Mass, Unbaptisms, or Destruction rituals.
- Monuments and holiday displays are important to the winter holiday. Chapters have presented holiday displays on public grounds and individuals should be encouraged to set up monuments in their own homes.
- Gift exchanges to encourage the pursuit of knowledge and show appreciation for others.

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